

Kittitas County Conservation District

State Legislative District #13
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments



Projects to “firewise” private lands removed over 7,000 cubic yards of potential wildfire fuels.



Projects to improve water quality and conservation on 2,000 acres of irrigated lands included sprinkler & pipe installations and PAM (polyacrylamide) applications.



After 7 years of meetings, a consensus plan was approved to address fish screening, fish passage, and in-stream flow in lower Manastash Creek.

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Fish Passage and Screening

Resource Challenge

Before this project, the Ellensburg Water Company (EWC) Canal and Currier Creek intersected. The creek flowed directly into the north side of the canal, and spill was released through a concrete structure on the south side of the canal into the creek bed. The structure was a barrier to fish migration, and fish could move freely from the creek into the canal. In addition, EWC could not treat with herbicides to reduce problematic aquatic vegetation in this reach of the canal because of risks to aquatic species.

Project Summary and Results

The EWC Canal was separated from Currier Creek with the installation of a siphon under the creek. The concrete structure that blocked fish passage was removed, and the creek bed reconstructed. A new diversion structure was constructed 400 feet upstream to allow EWC to divert water from Currier Creek. It includes both a fish ladder and a fish screen to protect fish from entrainment into the canal. While the majority of the work was completed in early 2008, the project isn't scheduled for full completion until November 2008.

In addition to this work, the adjacent landowners agreed to allow installation of a 20-foot-wide riparian buffer along Currier Creek. Washington Conservation Corps crews contracted by the Kittitas County Conservation District completed the plantings and are continuing to maintain the sites.

Key Project Partners

Funding and project assistance was provided by the Ellensburg Water Company, Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA funded), Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Ecology's Water Infrastructure Program, and the Washington Conservation Corps.



Before



After

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Mark Moore, Chair
Lynn Brown, Vice-Chair
Jeff Brunson, Auditor
Dale Dyk, Member
Ron Gibb, Member

More Work To Do

Forestland:

- Complete Community Wildfire Protection Plan; continue fuels reduction projects on 30 acres.

Fish Screening and Passage:

- Correct 5 barriers opening 2.5 miles of habitat; install 6 screens for 3,700 acre-feet of water.

Water Conservation:

- Complete irrigation projects on 212 acres saving 373 acre-feet.

Water Quality:

- Apply PAM for erosion control on 1,800 acres.

Education:

- Conduct seven Small Acreage Workshops and 3 public hearings for Community Wildfire Protection Plan; produce four newsletters.